

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06235 291326Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----017879 300255Z /70

R 291318Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7034
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 06235

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, LE
SUBJET: EMBASSY BEIRUT STAFF REDUCTION

REF: STATE 191804

1. JORDANIAN ROYAL COURT CHIEF SHARAF TELEPHONED CHARGE JULY 29 AND MENTIONED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF U. S. EMBASSY "EVACUATION" IN BEIRUT WAS CAUSING QUITE A REACTION IN JORDAN. SHARAF SAID THAT MANY PERSONS (PROBABLY MAINLY LEBANESE) CONTACTED PALACE AND GOJ TO EXPRESS CONCERN. SHARAF SAID THAT DELICACY OF CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION IS CAUSING MANY TO ATTRIBUTE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO U. S. ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. IN REPLY, CHARGE SUMMARIZED GIST OF DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON LEBANESE EVACUATION, STRESSING THAT IT WAS ONLY A REDUCTION OF SOME EMBASSY STAFF AND DEPENDENTS AND NOT RPT NOT AN EVACUATION; IT WAS A STEP THAT WAS IN THE OFFING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS GIVEN THE SECURITY SITUATION WHICH REMAINS A MATTER OF CONCERN. CHARGE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ATTRIBUTE POLITICAL BASIS TO U. S. DECISION, WHICH IS BASED
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ON PHYSICAL SECURITY SITUATION AND THAT U. S. IS VERY MUCH CONTINUING ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN LEBANESE SITUATION. EMBASSY LATER SENT SHARAF FULL TEXT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: SHARAF'S CONCERN OVER LEBANESE SITUATION AND U. S. EMBASSY REDUCTION HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN OTHER GOJ

CONTACTS, ILLUSTRATING GENERAL NERVOUSNESS OVER LEBANESE
SITUATION. SUDDARTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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